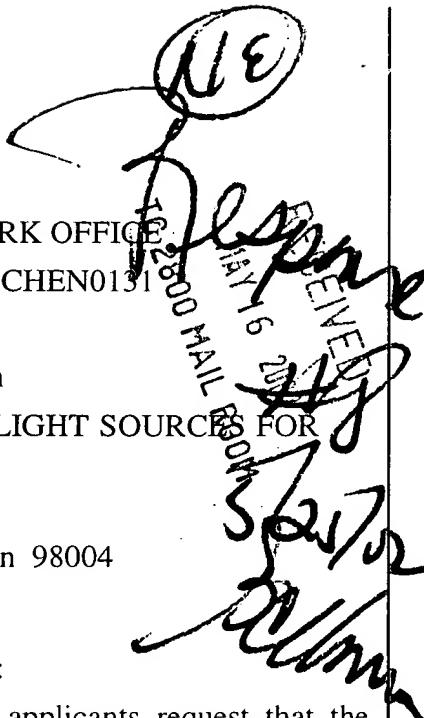


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

2 Applicants: Chen et al. Attorney Docket No: CHEN0131

3 Serial No: 09/597,931 Group Art Unit: 2875

4 Filed: June 19, 2000 Examiner: D. Hobden

5 Title: FLEXIBLE SUBSTRATE MOUNTED SOLID-STATE LIGHT SOURCES FOR
6 EXTERIOR VEHICULAR LIGHTING

7 REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

8 Bellevue, Washington 98004

9 May 9, 2002

10 TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE:

11 In response to the final Office Action dated March 5, 2002, applicants request that the
12 Examiner reconsider the application in view of the Remarks that follow. No amendment has been
13 made, so no marked-up copy or clean copy of the amendment is included.

14 REMARKS

15 Status of the Claims

16 Claims 1-26 are now pending in the present application. No amendment has been made.

17 Independent Claims 1, 23, 25 and 26 Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

18 The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 12, 23, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as
19 being unpatentable over Parker (previously cited) in view of Ishibashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,931,577).
20 The Examiner admits that Parker does not disclose a plurality of solid state light devices mounted to a
21 flexible substrate that emit light upwardly and outwardly (Parker's LEDs emit light inwardly into a
22 flexible light transmissive material that directs the light to a desired location). The Examiner relies
23 on Ishibashi for disclosing solid state light devices that emit light upwardly and outwardly, and
24 concludes that applicants' claims are obvious in view of the cited art. Applicants respectfully
25 disagree for the following reasons.

26 Because dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as the independent
27 claim from which they ultimately depend, applicants will limit the present response to addressing
28 how independent Claims 1, 23, 25, and 26 distinguish over the cited art. Note that Claims 2, 4, 8
29 and 12 are all ultimately dependent on independent Claim 1, and Claim 24 is dependent on
30 independent Claim 23. However, while applicants choose not to address other specific differences
31 between the art cited and each of the dependent claims, applicants do not intend to suggest that these
32 differences do not exist. It is applicants' position that all of the dependent claims recite subject
33 matter that differs in a non-obvious way from the disclosure of the prior art.

34 With respect to the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 12, and 25, applicants note that independent
35 Claims 1 and 25 each positively recite an orthogonal array of light emitting devices mounted on a